

New Jersey PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Dance Academy

NJPAC

WHAT IS THE NJPAC DANCE ACADEMY?

The NJPAC Dance Academy is a unique dance education program for elementary schools implemented in cooperation with Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. The NJPAC Dance Academy features technique classes for third grade students in a professional, challenging, and nurturing environment. Dance artists from New Jersey and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center work in both urban and suburban schools during the regular school day for a 10-week period to assist children in discovering dance as an artistic form and a means of self-expression.

HOW DOES THE NJPAC DANCE ACADEMY WORK?

The Dance Academy gives third-grade students the opportunity to attend 2 one-hour classes per week to explore introductory fundamentals in modern, ballet, tap or West African dance. At the end of the first year, children with exceptional talent or enthusiasm will be selected to continue their studies in the NJPAC Summer Arts Camp.

In conjunction with the 20 technique classes, the residency also offers:

- An Introductory Lecture/Demonstration by the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble
- Comprehensive Curriculum Materials
- Professional Development Workshops for Teachers
- Parent/Teacher Movement Sessions
- Student Assessment & Evaluation Plan
- Teaching Artist Training Sessions
- A Student Mini-performance of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
- Open Class School Demonstration
- Cross Cultural Links, a component that creates Dance Academy "sister schools"

HISTORY OF SUCCESS

During an in-depth planning process, NJPAC recognized the need for dance instruction in elementary schools. Through the cooperation of the National Dance Institute, New Jersey Ballet and Premiere Dance Theatre, 200 children participated in a five-week dance residency and "strutted their stuff" in a performance of *Fat City* for over 8,800 children and adults at Newark Symphony Hall in May 1994.

The success of *Fat City* prompted the development of a more in-depth dance program, the NJPAC Dance Academy, with the goal of reaching even more students for a longer period of time. Dance Academy '95 introduced 800 children from Newark, Short Hills, Union and Verona to high quality instruction in the movement and discipline of dance.

Dance Academy '96 was expanded to include an additional 800 youngsters in Plainfield, Orange, Montgomery Township, and East Orange, as well as the previous year's participants in Newark, Short Hills, Verona and Union, bringing the total participants to 1,600.

There's a definite correlation between what happens in this dance class and in the classroom.

Mary Lee Fisher
Principal, Glenwood School, Short Hills

I can only hope this program can become permanent in our school, so that year after year we can change the lives of the many children who need to be motivated through the arts.

Fidiberto Soto
Principal, Roberto Clemente School, Newark

WHAT IS THE ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE CENTER?

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Center (AAADC) is the official school of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. With an annual enrollment of 3,000 students, the Ailey School ranks as one of the leading dance schools in the world. While the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is the heart of the organization, its school is its foundation. The Ailey School offers professional training programs, open classes for adults and diverse programs for children. The AAADC was founded by Mr. Ailey in 1969 and Judith Jamison now serves as its Artistic Director.

PARTICIPATING DANCE PROFESSIONALS

Classes have been led by teaching artists from the following New Jersey dance companies:

- New Jersey Ballet
- Umoja Dance Company
- Pyramid Dance Company
- Premiere Dance Theatre
- Nat-Ni Chen Dance Company
- New Jersey Tap Ensemble

The NJPAC Arts Education Department is made possible by the generous support of the Victoria Foundation and NJPAC Arts Education Endowment Fund. Additional support has been provided by: AT&T, The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, The Turrell Fund, Broad National Bank, The Prudential Foundation, Rickel Home Center, Georgia-Pacific, Newark Board of Education, National Westminster Bank NJ, The Ann E. Talcott Fund-First Fidelity Bank, City of Newark, The Star Ledger, PSE&G, Gannett Outdoor Advertising, and Capezio Ballet Makers.

Yes,

I am interested in more information about the NJPAC Dance Academy for our third-grade students.

Name _____

Title _____

School/District _____

Principal _____

Superintendent _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Fax Number _____

NJPAC

Dance Academy

New Jersey PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

NJPAC

NJPAC

One Newark Center, 16th Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102

NJPAC AND THE ARTS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

History is unfolding as the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) takes shape. Construction on NJPAC's 12-acre site in the heart of downtown Newark is currently underway. The center will include a 2,750-seat multi-purpose hall, a 500-seat playhouse, two restaurants, banquet facilities, a gift shop, Theater Square (an outdoor performance plaza), and the renovation of Military Park Garage. NJPAC is slated for completion in the 1997 season. Even before the arts center opens, the NJPAC Arts Education Department is providing the state's children with creative programs that nurture exploration and discovery in the production and performance of the arts.

THE NEED FOR DANCE

NJPAC arts education managers identified a critical imbalance in the landscape of performing arts programs for school-aged youth. Visual art and music are traditional, often mandated, subject areas in most elementary school classrooms while dance and movement are almost non-existent.

*When I dance it feels like magic in the air...
the way we move the body in so many ways.*

Luis Alequin, Third Grade Student,
Roberto Clemente School, Newark

NJPAC

One Newark Center, 16th Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102
TEL: (201) 648-8989
FAX: (201) 648-6724

NJPAC

New Jersey Performing Arts Center
One Newark Center, 16th Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102
Attn: Elizabeth Koppe

Please
Place
Postage
Here